Project proposals that are complete in all respects are approved as per the extant guidelines on the basis of *inter-se* priority and funds released, subject to their availability under respective head.

Beautification of Jama Masjid

342. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to protect the Jama Masjid to its glory;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent thereon during the recent years on protection and maintenance of Jama Masjid and beautification of adjoining area?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) Jama Masjid, Delhi is not a centrally protected monument. However, due to its historical and architectural importance, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has, from time to time, undertaken repairs of the mosque while maintaining the original character of the monument. An estimate amounting to Rs. 47.52 lakhs has been sanctioned by ASI for structural repairs to the mosque. The work is in progress and, till date an expenditure of Rs. 11,66,725/- has been incurred. In addition, ASI has executed chemical preservation work of the brass doors and marble stones of Jama Masjid at an expenditure of Rs. 2,20,000/-. No expenditure has been incurred by ASI on beautification of the adjoining area.

Unprotected heritage sites

343. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of unprotected heritage sites are subjected to large scale destruction;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken to preserve these heritages?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Unprotected heritage is destroyed due to various factors including urbanization and commercialization around such heritage sites.

(c) No central legislation currently exists for conservation and protection of unprotected heritage. There is a central scheme for financial assistance for preservation of unprotected monuments less than 100 years old.

Sahitya Akademy Award

344. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not a single drama writer from Assam has been awarded 'Sahitya Akademy Award' on any of his dramas; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sahitya Akademi Awards are not genre based. As per Rules of the Akademi, the awards are given to the most outstanding books published during a specified period on the basis of evaluation made and on recommendation of a Jury consisting of senior writers and scholars of the concerned language.

Religious archaeological sites

†345. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of religious archaeological sites for the foreign tourists visiting the country;

(b) whether Government is contemplating opening of Nathula Way in Sikkim for foreign Buddhist religious tourists;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) There are 3675 monuments/sites declared as of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. A number of them are religious or quasi-religious in nature such as temples, mosques, tombs, monasteries, churches, etc.

(b) to (d) As per information made available by the Department of Tourism, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok, there is no proposal at present to open Nathula Way for foreign tourists including pilgrimage tourists.

Prohibited area near monuments

346. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is amending rules relating to prohibited area (100 metres) and regulated area (200 metres) from centrally protected monuments, keeping in view the increase in construction of roads, flyovers, Metro, BRT, etc. especially for the Commonwealth Games;

(b) if so, whether the amended rules would be applied uniformly to all such monuments, or on a monument to monument basis decisions would be taken; and

(c) whether the views of Urban Arts Commission or renowned conservationists have been taken into consideration?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No proposal has so far been mooted to amend the rules relating to 'prohibited' and 'regulated' areas of the centrally protected monuments.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.